

2025 Annual Report



Mission Statement

Open Hands, Open Hearts, Open Minds – Faith is a Journey

Vision Statement

A dynamic faith community, boldly making a difference as we grow together. Wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here.

St. Thomas United Church

Address: 100 Hawkwood Blvd NW Calgary, AB, T3G 2S9

Email: office@stthomasunited.ca

Website: ww.stthomasunited.ca

Telephone: 403-241-0366

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Sunday Service: 10:30 am



St. Thomas United Church
Open Hands - Open Hearts - Open Minds

St. Thomas United Church Staff

Ministers: Rev. Tracy Robertson, Rev. Marion Martin

Music Team: Kari Orosz, Pam Bazinet, Barbara Robertson, Dick Worton, Kate Power, Cindy Ma

Organist: Kari Orosz

Youth Leaders: Isaac Reimer (casual), Jonah Edwards, Serena Moar, Annalee McKellar (August start)

Junior Youth Leaders: Ev Robertson (until June), Sam Abel

Communications & Marketing: Todd Robertson

Children and Families Ministry Coordinator: Ashley Dressler

Office Administrator: Jane Wittstock (until July), Bridget Griffith (June start)

Caretaker: Alberta Janitorial

Treasurer: Greg Hyatt

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**St. Thomas United Church Annual Congregational Meeting
Minutes of March 23rd, 2025 Meeting
At St. Thomas United Church**

Present

Chair Linda Miller
Secretary Cathy Olson
Treasurer Greg Hyatt
Ministers Rev. Tracy Robertson, Rev. Marion Martin

Attendees

39 Members
6 Adherent

Linda Miller, Chair of Executive Council, called the meeting to order at 11:58 a.m.

Opening Prayer – Rev. Tracy Robertson

Opening Business – Linda Miller

Motion that:

1. The conditions of a Quorum have been met.
2. Cathy Olson be appointed as secretary for this meeting.
3. We acknowledge the community of St. Thomas United Church and grant corresponding voting privileges to adherents with regard to the building, property, finances, and other secular matters that concern the life and work of the congregation.
4. The Voting Process be done by a show of hands.
5. The agenda be approved as proposed.

<p>Moved by Linda Bouchard that the Motions 1. to 5. be Approved as presented. Seconded by Hope Cochran. Carried.</p>
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In Memoriam - Linda Miller

A moment of silence and prayer in remembrance of community of faith members and adherents who have passed away in 2024.

Gwen Campbell, Gladys Marshall, Chris Frey, Ray Whittle, Marion Luft.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2024 Congregational Meeting – Linda Miller

Moved by Ron French that the Minutes of the Congregational Meetings held on March 17, 2024, be Approved as presented. Seconded by Marj Aucoin. Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

- There is no Business Arising from the Minutes.

Receiving the Annual Report & Review of the Work of the Church in 2024 – Linda Miller

- Review of the Annual Reports

Motion that the Annual Reports of St. Thomas United Church for 2024 be received as prepared and circulated. Moved by Jan Campbell. Seconded by John Burgess. Carried.

Review and Approval of the 2024 Financial Statements – Greg Hyatt

Greg presented an overview of the 2024 financial statements, providing explanations and an opportunity for questions.

Greg offered his sincere thanks to everyone's continuing generous contributions.

Finance Committee Motion #1: That the St. Thomas United Church Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2024 be Approved. Moved by John Latter. Seconded by Keith Campbell. Carried.

Finance Committee Motion #2: That Nick Tait be appointed to conduct a financial review of St. Thomas' 2024 Financial Statements, pursuant to the United Church of Canada handbook requirements, and to report the results of his review to Executive Council.

Moved by Hope Cochran. Seconded by Dennis Gidley. Carried.

Greg outlined the 2025 proposed budget, offering explanations, and answering any questions.

Finance Committee Motion #3: That St. Thomas United Church 2025 Operating Fund Budget be Approved. Moved by Sherrill Knight. Seconded by Ron French. Carried.

There were many thank you(s) received from the congregation to Greg for his hard work and a special thanks from Rev. Tracy Robertson

Presentation and Approval of Bylaws update – Linda Miller

Bylaw changes with revisions to reflect current practices.

- Page 5 3.03 c) 2) All members of the congregation have access to the Executive Council Draft Minutes on request.
- page 9 3.04 c) Secretary Item 2f) Secretary may be a joint signing authority according to Section 3.09
- Page 10 3.05 Standing Teams b) Executive Council shall approve Standing Teams and the terms of reference for each Standing Team and review annually the teams' membership and review every 2 years the teams' mandates.
- Page 10 & 11 Standing Teams h) added Community Engagement, deleted Men of St. Thomas (MOST), typo correction Youth Advisory

That St. Thomas United Church Bylaws – Section 3 current update of March 23, 2025 be Approved. Moved by Linda Bouchard. Seconded by Hope Cochran. Carried.

Recognition of the 2024 Leadership – Linda Miller

Thank you to everyone on the 2024 Unified Board.

Below are individuals who have left the listed council, committees or staff positions by the end of the 2024

Music Staff Youth Choir Accompanist – Charles Xing

Youth Staff – Caitlin Hornbeck, Herman Ng, Amanda Sherwin, Jacqueline Verwaayen

Executive Council Chair – Linda Miller, Secretary – Cathy Olson

Affirming – Karen Kavanagh

Building & Property – Tobin Dressler

Faith Formation – Library – Sheila Campbell

Outreach & Paths to Reconciliation – Karen Kavanagh

Pastoral Care – Beth Phillips

Planning – Julia Cao, Annaliza Morales

Worship – Dan MacDonald, Candle Lighters – Diane French

Men of St. Thomas – Andrew Major, Barry Mingo

Thank you to everyone on the 2024 Unified Board. And a special thank you to those individuals who have left committees or staff positions in 2024.

The Nominations Report – 2025 St. Thomas United Church Unified Board

- ▶ Amendment to 2024/2025 Unified Board report: Andrea Sonpal – new Executive Council Secretary
- ▶ Current opportunities: Executive Council Chair, Finance Chair
- ▶ Minute for STUC beginning in March will highlight more opportunities

Motion that, the individuals listed on the 2024/2025 St. Thomas United Church Unified Board report be elected to the positions or committees/teams as noted on the report, and That the Executive Council be empowered to fill any vacancies that may arise until the next ACM.

Moved by Marj Aucoin. Seconded by Nancy Sprules. Carried.

❖ **Closing Prayer** – Reverend Marion Martin

Meeting Adjournment at 12:31 p.m.

Linda Miller - Chair

Cathy Olson - Secretary

UNIFIED BOARD 2025

* Left team in 2025 or is leaving in 2026

Bold - New during 2025

STAFF

Rev. Tracy Robertson,
Minister
Rev. Marion Martin, Minister
*Jane Wittstock, Office
Administrator
**Bridget Griffith, Office
Administrator**
Todd Robertson, Com. &
Marketing

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Vacant	Chair
Linda Miller	Past Chair
Greg Hyatt	Treasurer
Andrea Sonpal	Secretary
*Hugh Johnson	Regional Rep
*Linda Miller	Regional Rep
Moon-Ja Park	Regional Rep
Diane Paley	Regional Rep

TRUSTEES

David Gray, Chair
Dennis Gidley
Elaine Taylor-Kerr
Roslyn Campbell
Rev. Marion Martin, Staff
Deyelle MacDonald

STANDING COMMITTEES*(in alphabetical order):***AFFIRMING GROUP**

Ev Robertson, Chair
Rev. Tracy Robertson, Staff
Rev. Marion Martin, Staff
*Wanda Veer
Sean Ziesmann
Dan MacDonald
Intercultural Awareness:
Linda Miller, Chair
*Elaine Gray
Wanda Veer
*Sharon Ramraj-Thompson
Moon-Ja Park
*Paul Bercier
Melissa Elves-Kerkhoven

Rev. Tracy Robertson (staff)
Rev. Marion Martin (staff)

BUILDING AND PROPERTY

*David Blackadar, Chair
*Jane Wittstock, Staff
Bridget Griffith, Staff
Al Brooks
Sandra Burgess
Elvin Dorscher
*Ron French
Ted Glenn
Hal Tonkin
Curtis Veer

COMMUNICATIONS

Todd Robertson, Chair
Rev. Tracy Robertson, Staff

COMMUNITY**ENGAGEMENT**

Todd Robertson, Chair
Marion Martin, Staff
Hope Cochran
Elaine Gray
Theresa Smith

FAITH FORMATION

Gayle Wilderman, Chair
**Sharon Ramraj-Thompson,
Co-Chair**
Rev. Marion Martin, Minister
Marie Vallet
Myrna Malanik
Children & Family Ministry
Coordinator:
Ashley Dressler

FINANCE

Greg Hyatt, Treasurer
Rev. Marion Martin, Staff
Barry Mingo
Betty Smith
Nick Tait
Cindy Huisson

HOSPITALITY

Wanda Veer, Chair
Rev. Tracy Robertson, Staff

Sherrill Knight, Newcomers
and Ask Me Ministry
June Powell
Elaine Gray
Kathleen Stonehouse
Cindy Huisson
Jane Wittstock
Marina Theron-Monnery
Carol Rix
Sharon Ramraj-Thompson

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

Maureen Dodd, Chair
Andrew Major, Co-Chair
Dennis Gidley
Barry Mingo
*David Smith
Dan MacDonald
Deborah Ferguson

MUSIC TEAM

Elaine Taylor-Kerr, Chair
Rev. Tracy Robertson, Staff
*Ron French, Strummers
David Gray, Strummers
Deborah Ferguson
Music Staff:
Kari Orosz, Organist and
Adult & Children's Choirs
Accompanist
Pam Bazinet, Adult Choir
Director
Barb Robertson, Youth Choir
Director
*Charles Xing, Youth Choir
Acc.
Dick Worton, Orchestra
Director
Kate Power, Children's Choir
**Cindy Ma (accompanist
Youth choir)**

OUTREACH

*Hope Cochran, Chair
Rev. Marion Martin, Staff
Linda Dick
Loree Irving
Rachel Murray
*Elizabeth Morton

Paths to Reconciliation:

Elaine Gray, Chair
 Rev. Tracy Robertson, Staff
 John Latter

Creation Care:

Elizabeth Morton
 Deyelle MacDonald
 Curtis Veer
 Elaine Taylor-Kerr
 Theresa Smith
 Tom Snowden
 Paul Bercier

PASTORAL CARE**Richard Taylor-Kerr, Chair**

Marjorie Aucoin, Past Chair
 Rev. Tracy Robertson, Staff
 Diane Latter
 Jan Mingo
 Cathy Olson
 *Beth Phillips
 Betty Thompson
 Heather Worton
 Louise Scott

PLANNING TEAM

Linda Miller, Chair
 Rev. Tracy Robertson, Staff
 Rev. Marion Martin, Staff
 Hope Cochran
 Elaine Taylor-Kerr

Wanda Veer
 Melissa Elves
 Deyelle MacDonald

STEWARDSHIP

Rev. Marion Martin, Staff
 Myrna Malanik
 *Andrea Sonpal, acting chair
Linda Miller
Eva Stanley

WORSHIP

Cathy Rivard, Chair
 Rev. Tracy Robertson, Staff
 Linda Bouchard
 Heather Worton
 Diane Paley
 Todd Robertson
Tobin Dressler

YOUTH ADVISORY

Elaine Taylor-Kerr, Chair
 Rev. Tracy Robertson, Staff
 John Latter
 Jay Livesey
 Andrew Major
 Jan Mingo
Symon Valley UC Reps:
 Ilinca Poon, Staff

David Ward
 *Ina Folkmann
 *Elissa Henderson

Andrea Hardie**Youth Staff:**

Isaac Reimer, casual
 Serena Moar
 *Jonah Edwards
Annalee McKellar

Junior Youth Leaders:

Sam Abel
 *Ev Robertson

GROUPS &**REPRESENTATIVES**

Archivist, John Burgess
 AM Fun & Fitness, Pam
 Bazinet & Barb Robertson
 Book Club, Rachel Murray
 *Broadview Rep, Jan
 Campbell
 Shawl Ministry, Sandra
 Burgess
 *Primetimers, Jan Campbell
 Quilting for Others, Hope
 Cochran
Mahjong, Swee Wong

ANNUAL REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Executive Council is responsible for the temporal, financial and spiritual affairs of St. Thomas. It is composed of the chairs of committees, regional representatives, and the ministers.

The St. Thomas Annual Report will update the activities and accomplishments of the committees, teams, the ministries, and volunteers of St. Thomas for 2025. Individual committee reports describe in detail the many activities of our ministry in 2025, and here are some of the highlights:

- Continued shared worship and events with Foothills United Church
- Leadership and participation in local UCC 100th Anniversary events
- Bridget Griffith became our new Office Administrator, following the retirement of Jane Wittstock
- A huge construction project to repair long-term water damage in the sanctuary walls, and improve landscaping drainage along with new carpet, painting and chairs in the sanctuary
- Increased attendance at Messy Church, with a music program for the adults
- Interfaith collaboration and events
- Increased community presence, in the form of Hallowe'en events and attendance at monthly Trivia Nights, as examples
- Increasing pastoral care needs, due to the aging of the congregation.

Each of these examples constitutes a great deal of work by our committees, and on behalf of the congregation, we thank all who have contributed. We could not function without the commitment of these members.

At present, we are searching for a Chairperson for Executive Council. Since September, EC members have been rotating Chair duties, but we need a consistent Chair. Please consider this role, as the church moves into exciting and changing times.

*Respectfully submitted by David Blackadar and Maureen Dodd, on behalf of EC
Acting Chairs*

2025 Statistics

New Members: 5

Removed by death: 4

Transfer out: 2 and 1 otherwise

Baptisms: 1

Weddings: 2

Funerals/Memorials: 11

MINISTERS' REPORT

WOW, Marion survived Tracy being on sabbatical for 3 months (May-July)

★ Marion took 2 weeks of study leave and traveled with Tracy and other DUCC's to the Diakonia World Federation Conference in Moshi, Tanzania July 2 - 16th

Waterton!



Joint worship services for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise, and Hope & Light

Tanzania presentations to both STUC and Foothills complete with banana soup

Respectfully submitted by Reverends Marion Martin and Tracy Robertson

Tracy lived into being the new Chair of the Diakonia of the United Church of Canada association

We joined our siblings from other faith traditions in fun activities throughout the year.

Tracy's sabbatical involved sleeping in, late workout, writing about inclusivity, Tanzania!

Walked in the Pride parade

THANK YOU St. Thomas for your continued support and all the hard work that you all do!

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING COORDINATOR

I have been able to forge better communication with most of the other Calgary and area United Churches. This is mostly through efforts initiated by Community Engagement ideas around the United Church 100 anniversary.

I have also been able to make some valuable connections with Calgary City Police, Calgary Public Library, Hawkwood Elementary School, and the Hawkwood Community Association.

I ran some Google Ad campaigns, revolving around inviting the community to events.

Examples of this are:

- Christmas.
- The Fall Fair Market.

Other general things:

- Many posters have been made and distributed.
- Social media campaigns.
- Social media discussions.
- The monthly newsletter.
- Liaising with St. Thomas groups about their needs for advertising.
- Attending meetings that are applicable to the PR position.

*Submitted by Todd J. Robertson
Communications and Marketing Coordinator at St. Thomas United Church*

Committee and Group Reports (Alphabetical)

AFFIRMING

Current committee members:

Ev Robertson (Chair), Rev. Marion Martin, Rev. Tracy Robertson, Amy Smith, Dan MacDonald, Sean Ziesmann

The Affirming team spent 2025 continuing our annual events, beginning to look at how to enhance our committee and what we do, expanding our umbrella, and more. We had a very eventful year and hope to bring that energy with us as we move into 2026.

Here is a list of the things we have done in 2025:

- Affirming Leader's Day Conference 2025 (Tracy attended).
- Supported and used Calgary's City-Wide Pride service as our Pride Sunday service.
- Walking in the Calgary Pride Parade.
- P.I.E. Day Queer Art Show & Sale
 - This event was another huge success!
 - The Pie silent auction was a huge hit, raising most of the funds needed to cover Pride Prom.
- Pride Prom
 - Went really well again, attendance was a little lower than before, but we have been planning ways of improving that going forward.
 - We were able to raise funds to put this event on ourselves, with the help of our amazing congregation.
 - Food was donated to us for the event.
- Advertising and participating in Affirming Connections events throughout the year.
- Stayed on top of current world events, so that we could make social media postings (i.e. Transgender Day of Remembrance, World Coming Out Day, and others).
- We broadened our umbrella to include already existing committees that would be under Affirming, according to our Affirming statement (Intercultural Awareness, Paths to Reconciliation).

In 2026, we hope to run our annual events once again so that we continue to build community together and continue to make St. Thomas United a safe and welcoming place for everyone. We are going to continue to broaden our umbrella to include more committees/events/people to spread awareness, educate, and open our minds even more. We are excited to see what 2026 has in store for us!

Here are some of the events we have planned for 2026:

- P.I.E. Day
 - We are once again planning on having a Queer Art Show & Sale with a pie silent auction again.
 - Pam Rocker is coming to the service so that we can hear her speak on the importance of PIE Day.
- Pride Prom
 - We will be hosting this again in 2026. We will be adding a theme to the event going forward to keep it engaging and "new" for folks coming and celebrating with us.

- Hosting Lunch & Learns around other Affirming topics to bring awareness and education to our community.
- Newsletter
 - We will continue contributing to the Newsletter every month. It is important for us to share what we are working on with everyone at St. Thomas United.
- This year, we also hope to gain some more committee members.
- And more to come forth in the year!

St. Thomas is an affirming church, and our goal is to celebrate and welcome folks, as well as to educate on what that means and why it is important. We are committed to being an affirming and welcoming space to all, unconditionally. Everyone is welcome no matter your gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, social or economic circumstances, mental or physical capabilities, or religious background. It is important to us that everyone is treated equally and that our space is loving and open. This year, we plan on creating much more community involvement from our congregation and outside communities as we continue to be openly affirming. To be considered affirming, our work creating a welcoming and safe place for everyone is never over. We must continue to be public, explicit, and intentional with all that we do; continuing to live up to what it actually means to be an affirming church. We hope for everyone's support and participation with our events and our goals.

Respectfully submitted by Ev Robertson (they/them), Chair

Intercultural Awareness

The Intercultural Awareness Group meets monthly and is under the Affirming umbrella. The team focuses on events and actions to bring cultural awareness to the community of faith of St. Thomas. These events and actions can be within or outside of St. Thomas.

We began with focusing awareness on Black history month (February) and Asian heritage month (May) through videos and PowerPoint presentations in Worship. The first intercultural potluck was held in November 2025. The potluck was very successful with lots of variety in cultural dishes, great conversations and an introduction to the family heritage global map.

Opportunities to learn more about different faiths and cultures include the Lenten Interfaith Speaker Series offered to both St. Thomas and Foothills folks, and inviting anyone to attend various events offered through the Calgary Interfaith Council.

Continuation of awareness activities and events will expand in 2026 throughout the year.

The team members consist of Melissa Elves-Kerkhoven, Moon Ja Park, Wanda Veer, Rev Marion Martin, Rev. Tracy Robertson, and Linda Miller.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Miller, Chair

BUILDING & PROPERTY

Committee members this year were David Blackadar, Al Brooks, Sandra Burgess, Elvin Dorscher, Ron French, Ted Glenn, Bridget Griffith, Curtis Veer and Jane Wittstock.

Inspections:

Backflow Preventers (Anderson Plumbing – passed, one valve may need replacement in 2026)

AEDARSA (directive to repair “platform in-use” lights at both landings)
Fire Alarm System (Chubb-Edwards. Emergency light battery failures – banner room, loft, wall to right of main entrance)
Fire Extinguishers (Brahma Fire & Safety – passed)

Projects:

Sanctuary

Ordered 110 new sanctuary chairs from ComforTek, unloaded from the delivery truck and unpacked them with assistance from Campus Ministry and church volunteers.
Repaired and refinished Sanctuary ceiling. (Big Al’s Texturing Ltd.)
Repainted Sanctuary Walls. (Kilo Painting)
Laid new carpet tiles and broadloom. (CDL Flooring)
At the back wall of Sanctuary, excavated, stripped off exterior stucco and sheathing, “sistered” rotting wall studs, reinsulated, replaced exterior sheathing, and installed interior drywall to repair leak under wall. (JMS Carpentry Services Inc.)
Plastered and sanded new interior drywall. (Dusty’s Home Renovations)
Repainted new drywall.
Installed exterior retaining wall, collection pond and two French drains. (A Green Future Ltd.)
Re-stucco’d damaged exterior wall, and sealed stucco at building corners and all cracks that could provide ingress of water. (A Green Future Ltd.)
Repaired Roger’s cable.
Installed 3-speed relay control on sanctuary exhaust fan.
Built wooden cable tray for organ console and A/V booth cabling/piping.
Purchased two book trolleys for hymn books.

Sunday School and Nursery

New blinds installed.
Repaired exhaust fan in assembly area.

Church Lounge

New blinds installed.

Church yard

Installed exterior retaining wall, collection pond and two French drains. (A Green Future Ltd.)
Installed vinyl siding on garden shed. (JMS Carpentry Services Inc.)
Installed new exterior light on shed with proximity detector.
Installed new retractable hose in front flower bed.

MV Hall

Added protective sheeting in elevator alcove and painted.

Miscellaneous Repairs and Activities:

Completed an inventory of the contents of every church room requested by the trustees for insurance purposes.

Newo Global Energy performed an energy audit of the church.

Cambridge Elevators removed and reinstalled the elevator controller for reprogramming in Saskatoon twice and subsequently repaired one of the elevator's "in-use" lights.

Replaced the micro-switches on door opener for front door. (Alpine Glass)

Replaced leaking acid batteries in three emergency lights.

Replaced cover on GFI on side of shed.

Replaced the flat screen display panel in the Narthex.

Installed new operator on Mountainview Hall window.

Minor plumbing repairs.

Repaired stools in A/V booth.

Planted, dead-headed and weeded the front flower beds.

Organized spring and fall yard clean-ups (power-washed carpet runners).

Drained the outdoor sprinkler system and buried lines for winter.

Replaced missing flashing and repaired eavestrough on front of church.

Completed winter furnace inspection (replaced one furnace motor and an ignitor).

Guardian Security installed a repeater because of weak signals to door sensors and subsequently replaced the security system receiver.

Placed an order with ComforTek for new tables for the MV Hall and subsequently cancelled the order because they were short of stock.

Provided application support to Early Discoveries Nursery School in their development application for a daycare license.

Ordered a Knox Lift-off Door for the outdoor lockbox used by the fire department.

Putting up and taking down the outdoor Christmas lights.

Service Contracts

Waste Management – negotiated new garbage pick-up contract.

Arpi's Industrial – negotiated new HVAC contract.

YardWorx – renewed contract for snow removal and parking lot sweeping, added contract for weed control.

Mehryar Yegan – summer grass cutting.

Annual Outreach Contracts

Al-Makkah Islamic Assembly (three contracts: Friday prayer, Ramadan, Education classes).

Early Discovery Nursery School (two contracts).

Girl Guides Canada (one contract: Guides, Pathfinders, Sparks and Embers).

Out Of the Blue Chorus (one contract).

12-Step Program (one contract).

Sentenashi Karate (one contract).
Stagecoach Performing Arts (one contract).

A big "Thank-You" again this year to the many volunteers who helped with the major projects and yard clean-ups.

Submitted by David Blackadar, Chair

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Communications have been going fine.

We installed a new soundboard and are in the process of getting some new microphones. This has been funded by Marj Aucoin on behalf of Leo Aucoin. We thank Leo very much for this.

We have two dedicated people, who are paid, that run the AV booth along with me. I am searching for one or maybe two more people to help out.

Submitted by Todd J. Robertson, Communications Chair

FAITH FORMATION

Committee Members: Ashley Dressler (staff), Myrna Malanik, Rev. Marion Martin, Sharon Ramraj-Thompson (co-chair), Marie Vallet, Gayle Wilderman (co-chair), Fiona Craig (Library), Elaine Gray (library), Sheila Humphrey (library)

Ongoing: Sunday School

Almost 40 children have filled out the paperwork for the Sunday School. On average, Ashley can have 5-25 students on any given Sunday. Occasional drop-in students are welcome as well. Most Sundays, Ashley does Children's Time, which is very apt for the children, as well as for the whole congregation. We try to have the children stay with the adult congregation until after the scripture reading and a music group has finished their anthem which is a new way of scheduling this year and seems to be successful.

Ongoing: Library Management

The library is cared for by Fiona Craig, Sheila Humphrey and Elaine Gray. A table in the Narthex with a themed display has resulted in more books taken out.

January 2025 – A relaxed and comfy Messy Church was held on Friday, January 24. Approximately 30 folks were in attendance, some in pyjamas, eating comfort food, listening to the story *Winter's Gifts* by Kaitlyn Curtice, making board games and enjoying a relaxed family and intergenerational church gathering.

The Sunday School theme was "I Am a Change Maker" - about how to promote a supportive and kind world.

Confirmation classes have made plans to visit other places of worship.

February 2025 – The Sunday School, under Ashley's direction continued learning how to be guided by love and listening and learning from the experiences of others. During the Children's Time, Ashley taught us all how to centre ourselves with calming breathing exercises.

March 2025 – March 2 was Joy of Song at St. Thomas. All the choirs, Children’s, Youth, and Adult Choirs sang selections (sometimes together), and the Orchestra and Strummers also played. The Sunday School children stayed in the service to listen to the music, and many were participating in their respective choirs.

Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday was at Foothills United and started at 5:00 pm. There was live music, pancakes, crafts and a parade.

April 2025 – Messy Church was on April 4, 2025 at 5:30 pm with supper served at approximately 6pm. The lesson was centred on the book *Spring* that Marion used as the theme. The children and their parents and any interested adults or youth painted Easter eggs.

Sunday School emphasized Spring, new life, Good Friday, the teachings of Jesus – Lent. Puppets and skits continued during Children’s Time and lessons of the parables of Jesus, yoga and crafts were completed in Sunday School. This month, a musical guest from the Adult Choir taught a song to the children and “Library with Fiona” was also started.

The library profiled some new book additions donated in Sheila Campbell’s name. Sheila had retired after many years of running the library.

The confirmation class was confirmed on Easter Sunday at St. Thomas. Confirmation classes were led by Reverend Marion Martin and Reverend Tracy Robertson.

May 2025 – Sunday School did a celebration in the sanctuary of the Mothers and Mother Figures in their lives. Photos of past or present mother figures in the children’s lives was collected by Ashley and put into a video that was shared on May 11. This event was well received.

May 24 – Ladies Night Out at Foothills United. We wore our favourite things and brought a favourite dish to eat. There were door prizes, and Marsha Reid presented the singing bells; and Isabella sang “My Favourite Things”. There were approximately 25 participants.

Camp Caravan registration opened with the theme of “light, laughter, and hopeful new beginnings”. August 11-15 was our assigned time due to the major carpet and painting renovation that was happening in the Sanctuary. There were two age groups this year – children 5-11 and 12-14.

June 2025 – The last day of Sunday School was June 1, and Ashley prepared a year end wrap up video for Children’s Time. Ashley had a certificate prepared for each student.

June 8 - The United Church 100th Year Anniversary service was held at Knox United, and everyone was invited; there was no Sunday School or morning service that day.

June 15 - At Baker Park, a church picnic was held. Volunteer hotdog cooks handled the barbeques, and the congregation brought potluck vegetables, fruit and desserts. There was Communion featuring grapes and rice crackers and about 50 adults and children sat in lawn chairs

July 2025 – Library books could still be taken out, and youth were encouraged to volunteer and get leadership experience at Camp Caravan. The church had pews moved out, repairs were made, and painting and carpet laid.

The Sunday School storage room was thoroughly sorted, cleaned and organized by Ashley. A record of the equipment and materials in the Sunday School storage room was compiled for Building and Property, who required it for insurance purposes.

August 2025 – Camp Caravan ran from August 11-25. Participants numbered 25. One youth signed up for the leadership experience as well.

September 2025 – Sunday School started September 7 and children were encouraged to bring their backpacks to be blessed. Ashley, the Sunday School coordinator was aiming to go somewhat paperless this year and has set up the system so that everyone could register online.

October 2025 – Sunday School was oriented around what we have to be thankful for. On long weekends, due to low attendance, there was no Sunday School, but there were books and art materials available at the side table. Children were encouraged to quietly play and listen to the service.

At Messy Church on October 24, we hosted a spaghetti dinner and Marion read the story/lesson. Then people participated in the family craft of pumpkin carving. There were around 30 people in attendance. At this Messy Church we also arranged a sing-along in the sanctuary for those interested and had a number of attendees. Bud Berges kindly played the piano for us.

November 2025 – Sunday School continued to see very variable attendance between 5 and 25 students per Sunday, with the average being 8.

November 9 - Col. John McCrae's famous poem "In Flanders Fields" was read and the children discussed war and working for peace. A poppy craft was set up, and many fine poppies and poppy-oriented artwork was constructed during craft.

November 23 - Children participated in the "Hanging of the Greens" (for the whole service) and helped decorate the church with green evergreen boughs and Christmas tree lights and bulbs and helped getting the candles and creche set up. Children were encouraged to participate in the filming of the Nativity story and the Advent story (At Foothills United Church) that was presented every Sunday during in Advent.

November 29 - Parents Day Out. Parents had a day to themselves, while their children did crafts, read stories, had snacks, ate lunch, and saw a movie complete with popcorn.

November 26 - Reverend Marion started the four-part Advent series "The Wandering Wisemen" which was presented as a four-part Advent series complimented by film work done by the children. Marion met with interested people during the four weeks of Advent for a cup of coffee every Wednesday morning at 10:00.

December 2025 – Sunday School was centred on the Christmas and Wandering Wisemen theme.

The library had a display of Christmas books on the table in the Narthex.

Families attended their own service on Christmas Eve – Kids, Carols and Chaos.

Planning for next year

Our plans for next year are going to focus on acquiring a new Sunday School teacher as our current teacher must leave at the end of the school year in 2026. The current teacher has offered to help the new person as much as possible including involvement in this year's plans and lessons if possible.

We will continue to promote the library, confirmation classes, special classes and events, and Messy Church events.

Submitted by Gayle Wilderman, Co-Chair

FINANCE

St. Thomas United Church 2024 Financial Review

Executive Council

September 3, 2025

St. Thomas United Church

Chair

Financial Review (2024)

By appointment of the congregation during the Annual Congregational Meeting on March 17, 2025, I have completed a review of the church finances for 2024. This review is not a complete audit of the church finances but an independent review of the financial records to provide additional assurance that the finances are sound, trackable, and consistent with the records reported to the congregation.

I completed my review in June/September 2025 after receiving the records from Greg Hyatt. The review consisted of following selected transactions (receipts, payments, fixed assets, and balance sheet) through the various parts of the records and the annual financial report.

In summary:

1. The financial records for the church are very well documented, well organized and easy to understand.
2. The Annual Financial reports for St. Thomas United Church for the year 2024 are an accurate summary of the 2024 Financial Records.

3. There are no issues arising from this review and I have no recommendations as a result of this year's review.

Thank you to Greg Hyatt for his continued dedication and hard work in maintaining the financial records for St. Thomas United Church.

Nicholas Tait

Nicholas Tait

HOSPITALITY

HOSPITALITY is our name.
 Hosting and serving is our game.
 We are such a busy bunch
 Serving coffee and sometimes lunch.

Ask Me Hosts are at the door
 Smiling and greeting, could we ask for more?
 Ready to go are Newcomer bags,
 Questions answered, and bright Name Tags.

Coffee every Sunday can be a chore
 But volunteers pour and bake some more
 Birthday Sundays draw a crowd
 Laughter and chatter is very loud.

In 2025 we Lunch and Learned
 Basically Babies, much clothing was earned.
 In October we hosted an Antiques Show
 Fun to eat, then listen and know.

We've organized Teas in homes and spaces
 With Pastoral Care and many happy faces
 Often with seniors who have to move slow
 We've named this venture "Tea to Go".

We have ideas for 2026
 There's always time for a friendly fix
 This committee always has fun
 Work and laugh, and then we're done!

Thanks to everyone who attended and supported our events. Hospitality also assisted other committees with their events such as Mardi Gras/Pancake Supper/Ash Wednesday, Lunch & Learns, Pie Day, Jane Wittstock Retirement Party, Stampede Breakfast, Jack Russell #95 Birthday Celebration, Welcome Back Sunday, Festive Fair, and several Tea to Go events. We volunteered twice at the Basically Babies warehouse with other St. Thomas folks.

Welcome to new members: Jane Wittstock, Carol Rix, Sharon Ramraj-Thompson, Marina Theron-Monnery.

Thank you to Elaine Gray who sent Celebration cards to the congregation for many years. She gleefully handed the “card lady job” to Sharon Ramraj-Thompson. We still think that a paper card, sometimes hand delivered, is a wonderful way to remind our congregation that we care for you. Ideas? Let us know. Or join our crew.

St. Thomas Hospitality Committee:

Wanda Veer, Chair. Elaine Gray, Cindy Huisson, Sherrill Knight, June Powell, Marina Theron-Monnery, Sharon Ramraj-Thompson, Carol Rix, Kathleen Stonehouse, Jane Wittstock.

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL

Once again in 2025, the St Thomas staff went above and beyond to enrich our spiritual experiences and provide opportunities for us to take our ministry beyond the church walls.

One of the goals of the Ministry and Personnel committee is to make sure the staff balances their work and leisure time. If you don't see a staff member at an event, they are likely double-booked or taking some rare and much-deserved time off!

We had continued successful staff partnerships with Foothills and Symons Valley United Churches. Sharing staff resources benefits all involved.

Todd Robertson, our Communications and Marketing Coordinator, was instrumental in organizing local UCC 100th Anniversary events, which was a huge undertaking.

Ashley Dressler, our Sunday School Coordinator, spearheaded several events for families outside of Sunday mornings, and attendance at these is growing. Sadly, Ashley will be leaving the position in June of 2026 and will be missed.

There were a few changes in 2025. Our much-loved Office Administrator, Jane Wittstock, retired at the end of June. Bridget Griffith has taken over this position, and thankfully had a few weeks overlap with Jane. It's a huge job to learn the people and processes involved in St. Thomas and in the UCC, and Bridget is doing a wonderful job.

David Smith resigned from Ministry and Personnel after several years as a committee member and as Chair. Thanks to David for his long-term commitment to the committee and to the staff.

Thank you to the staff for all their work, and for highlighting ways that we can extend our ministries beyond our building. This will be critical if the church is to thrive. And thanks to all the M&P committee members – Andrew Major (Co-Chair), Dan MacDonald, Deborah Ferguson, Dennis Gidley and Barry Mingo, as well as the Music, Youth and Faith Formation committees, who support our music, youth, and Sunday School staff.

Respectfully submitted by Maureen Dodd, Chair

MUSIC TEAM

The music team has continued to provide programs for all ages. All groups contribute to the worship experience at St. Thomas. Highlights in 2025 included:

- Participation in the 12th night concert at Symons Valley United by the adult choir, youth choir and orchestra
- Joy of Song

- John Robertson and Sheila Humphrey wrote a song for the Pie Day contest. It was performed by the strummers during the PIE Day worship service on March 16.
- Participation in the city wide UCC 100th anniversary service at Knox United by Pam Bazinet and a few members of the Adult Choir.
- The annual Stampede Service created and presented by the Strummers,
- Music provided by the Maple Leaf Brass on the first Sunday of Advent
- Youth and Children's choirs' musical ('Carol and the Belles' created by Steve Moore, Rob Howard, & David Guthrie, all music and lyrics by Rob Howard)
- Cocoa and Carols after Church on Nov 23
- Children's Choir participation in the Kids, Carols and Chaos Christmas Eve service
- Adult Choir Christmas Eve Cantata (a selection of anthems and hymns woven together into O. Henry's 'The Gift of the Magi')
- Youth Choir participation in the Christmas Eve Communion service

The Music Team consists of 6 staff members plus the music leadership team. The staff members are responsible for music selection, running practices, ensuring their choir/orchestra provides music for worship services on a regular basis and organizing other musical events. The music leadership team assists with coordination between the musical groups, the Ministers and the church office. They also gather congregational input on the programs, perform the annual performance reviews, and recruit new staff as needed. Rev. Tracy is a part of this team.

The music staff this year have been Kari Orosz (Organist, Children's Choir Accompanist), Pam Bazinet (Adult Choir Director), Dick Worton (Orchestra Director), Barb Robertson (Youth Choir Director), Kate Power (Children's Choir Director), and Cindy Ma (Youth Choir Accompanist).

The Children's Choir is for children in ECS to grade 6. They practice between 6:00 and 7:00 on Thursday evenings. They sang in Church services about once a month, provided an anthem for the Kids, Carols and Chaos Christmas Eve service, and did an excellent job participating in the Christmas musical along with the Youth Choir.

The Youth Choir is for youth in grades 6 to high school and beyond. They practice between 7:00 and 8:30 on Wednesday evenings. They sang in church services about once a month, participated in 12th Night, did an excellent job of performing the Christmas musical along with the Children's Choir, and provided the music for the Christmas Eve Communion service.

The Adult Choir is for anyone who has decided they are too old to sing with the youth. They practice on Thursday evenings from 7:15 – 9:30. They provided an anthem for the church services approximately every other week. They presented a Cantata at the 8:00 pm Christmas Eve service.

The Orchestra is for anyone who plays an instrument regardless of skill level. They practice between 7:00 and 8:30 on Monday evenings. They provided an anthem and accompanied some of the hymns in a church service about once a month. They participated in 12th Night.

The Strummers, led by Ron French, are an informal group of folks who like to play strummed instruments and sing. They practice on Thursday evenings between 6:00 and 7:00. They provided an anthem about once a month and also provided the music for the service of Hope and Light in December. The annual Stampede Service was the highlight in July.

We are sorry to say that Ron French will be moving in the new year. We thank him for his many years of dedication and work with the Strummers. We wish him and Diane well in their new

home. He will be dearly missed. David Gray has stepped up to take over leadership of the Strummers. We welcome David to this new challenge.

The Strummers Outreach group, led by George Ziroff, practice on Tuesdays between 1:00 and 3:00. They perform concerts at various venues throughout the year including Seniors' residences.

Several people have provided assistance with the music program throughout the year. The music leadership team consisted of Deborah Ferguson, Ron French and Elaine Taylor-Kerr. Ron French led the Strummers and George Ziroff led the Strummers Outreach group. Loree Irving has accompanied the monthly services that Rev. Tracy leads at two retirement homes. Bud Berges has filled in for Loree when she was unable to attend. Barb Veitch maintained the music inventory records. Bernice Praymac handled copyright reporting. Dan MacDonald recorded the Children's Choir anthem for Christmas Eve. Kloria Wen accompanied the Youth Choir during September and October while Cindy was on an exchange in Europe. Kloria also accompanied two services on Christmas Eve and the Adult Choir Cantata. Erin MacLean Berko accompanied a service on Christmas Eve and Barb Robertson played the prelude for the 8:00 pm Christmas Eve service. Bud Berges played the organ for hymns at some special services. Cheryl Lang and the Music Directors have provided Sunday School Music monthly this year. Sheila Humphrey wove the anthems and some hymns into a Christmas themed story to provide the Adult Choir Cantata. Loree Irving, Wanda Veer, Barb Robertson, Cindy Ma, Banner MacDonald, and Elaine Taylor-Kerr filled in as accompanists when Kari had a day off. Elva Chen and Sofia Li played during offertory and postludes. Lisa Dejardins played the trumpet for the Remembrance Day service. I apologize to anyone that I have missed naming.

Thank you to all of the staff and volunteers including the many members of the choirs, strummers and orchestra.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Taylor-Kerr

OUTREACH

A summary of activities for the past year includes:

Avenue 15 – trellis Society

Avenue 15 provides unhoused youth, ages 12 – 17, with temporary shelter and basic needs. St. Thomas volunteers visited this shelter in the first half of the year, usually monthly, to make dinner and bring donations of gently used clothing, new cosmetics, and toiletries.

Due to the smaller number of committee members this year and difficulty in recruiting volunteers, we've decided to discontinue making dinner monthly but will donate extra food left over from other events held at the church (i.e. Messy Church, etc).

Community Brown Bag Lunches

This is a joint initiative with Foothills United Church. On the third Wednesday of every other month, a total of 4 – 6 volunteers from both churches meet at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Bowness to prepare and distribute 60 bagged lunches to community members in

need. The time commitment for each session is less than 2 hours but makes a huge difference to people on the receiving end; St. Thomas and Foothills folks alternate buying groceries needed to assemble the meals (there's no cooking involved).

As of September, we've been asked to increase the number of lunches made to 80 and, more recently 90, due to the increase in demand.

Christmas Adopt-a-Family

Every year St. Thomas symbolically adopts families in the community who are struggling to help make their holidays happier. This past Christmas we adopted three families: one from the Adopt-a-Family Organization (single mom with 3 kids), one from Foothills United (a single elderly person), and one via the Veterans Association Food Bank (mom, dad, and son – both dad and son are veterans). Due to your overwhelming generosity, we were able to provide each family with gifts, treats, and grocery store gift cards (mostly purchased from the St. Thomas grocery card fundraising program; each purchase helps us too!) This program has been coordinated very capably by Karen Kavanagh, a long-time Outreach member. Karen moved to the Maritimes in the Spring of last year; a very big "thank you" to Deyelle MacDonald who stepped in to look after it this past Christmas.

Veterans Association Food Bank

This organization recognizes and offers support to those individuals currently serving, honourably discharged, or honourably released. Support is also extended to spouses, widows, widowers, and any dependent children in need. In addition to food, they welcome donations of toiletries, winter accessories, Christmas decorations, and food for pets. Deliveries are made by St. Thomas volunteers approximately every other month. All items donated are very much appreciated and welcomed given the continuing need for food banks in Calgary and surrounding areas.

A huge thank you to all congregants of St. Thomas who continue to generously support our programs; we couldn't do it without you! We're also very grateful to former committee members Karen Kavanagh, who resettled in New Brunswick earlier in the year, and to previous Chair Hope Cochran for all her hard work.

Currently the Outreach committee members include Linda Dick, Elaine Gray, Loree Irving, and Rachel Murray; Rev. Marion Martin is our staff support.

Under the umbrella of Outreach is Paths to Reconciliation.

Cheryle Chagnon-Greyeyes, cultural advisor, Traditional Knowledge Keeper, and proud member of Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, Treaty 6, Saskatchewan was our guest speaker during the service on June 22 in recognition of National Indigenous Peoples Day.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Gray

Calgary Alliance for the Common Good

Calgary Alliance for the Common Good (CACG) is a non-partisan and non-profit alliance of congregations, unions, schools and community groups in Calgary representing more than 35,000 people. These organizations came together to form the CACG to organize the power of our communities to shape a just and compassionate city. We hold politicians accountable, build on the collaboration of its members, and so much more to advocate for a better city for all Calgarians. CACG has ongoing campaigns working to effectively address the real issues facing Calgarians and our member organizations. Visit https://www.calgarycommongood.org/past_campaigns to learn about campaigns that were wins for our city and the membership list to see just how many organizations believe in CACG. Outreach and St. Thomas are very proud to be a part of CACG.

Each year CACG Hosts the UNCOMMONLY GOOD CELEBRATION DINNER with a notable speaker. The 2025 GALA was a resounding success with tickets sold out. This is an easy way to learn more about CACG, meet some of the other members and to show our support. The 2026 Gala will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2026. Watch for more info to follow....

The current core team reps from St. Thomas are Linda Miller and Hope Cochran with Rev. Marion Martin as our staff support. Elizabeth Morton is our rep on Affordable Housing and Paul Bercier, our rep for Climate Hub.

We encourage St. Thomas members to come and help CACG achieve their goals for the people of Calgary – which is all of us! For more information on how to get involved, contact Linda Miller or Hope Cochran.

Submitted by Hope Cochran

Creation Care

The Creation Care Team was created in January of 2023 as a result of the interest in the subject of the environment created by a very successful book study held in the fall of 2022, on the book "How the World Works" by Vaclav Smil. We have operated as a sub-committee of the Outreach Committee. Our work has focused largely on education, particularly reducing waste created by STUC's practices.

In 2025 our activity as a Team wound down. Deyelle MacDonald continued to provide helpful tips on reducing our impact on the environment in the bulletins, and Tom Snowden provided a review of the book, "How to be a Climate Optimist" in the March newsletter.

Our team has been looking into the possibility of applying to a national church grant called "Faithful Footprints." This work is being done by Curtis Veer who is a member of the Building and Property Committee.

We have ceased meetings as we have no new projects to do.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Morton

PASTORAL CARE

Open Hands, Open Hearts, Open Minds truly describes Pastoral Care at St. Thomas. Everyone in our congregation understands that looking after one another is the calling and duty of every one of us. Each one of us welcomes, supports and takes care of each other in all times. The Pastoral Care Committee is the core of Open Hands, Open Hearts and Open Minds, putting in countless hours to lead and coordinate our programs. The committee cannot thank our huge team, you the congregation, enough for the ways in which you step up for your church family. Our hearts are full.

In 2025 we offered funeral receptions, many meals, a lot of visiting, shawls, quilts, and a multitude of cards for every imaginable occasion. Following is a breakdown of our many initiatives.

Baking, Cooking Meals – A Huge Thank You to the many individuals that have baked, cooked and delivered meals, goodies, soup, etc. when called upon. We couldn't do this work without the host of volunteers. Thank you! If you would like to join this list, we would love to hear from you.

Christmas Goodie Bags – We delivered 35 Christmas goodie bags to individuals this past December. It was a great way to connect with a number of our seniors leading up to Christmas.

Hope and Light Christmas Service (formerly Blue Christmas) – each December we assist Rev. Tracy and Rev Marion with this important service. This years' service was held at St. Thomas on December 21. St. Thomas' Strummers provided the music for the service.

Cards – on behalf of the congregation, we sent 92 cards this past year. Betty Thompson is our record keeper and continually designs and sends out cards for St. Thomas. Thirteen cards were sent out to church members who were 90+.

Visiting and Calling – We have a list of 20+ members of the congregation who we call or visit on a regular basis. There are several people in the congregation who help us with this. We thank you for your support. It is important to keep these people connected to their church family. This list expands or shrinks throughout as the need arises.

Tea to Go – The Pastoral Care Team has joined the Hospitality Team in organizing "Tea to Go". These have been organized in Senior residences or private homes. Several congregants who live in the general area of where the Tea is being held are invited. It is a great opportunity for people to socialize, especially those who don't get out on their own very often.

Funeral Receptions – We provided 5 funeral receptions this past year, offered ongoing support and sent out a number of sympathy cards. Thank you to all our wonderful "food makers" for assisting in this. This is a vital and essential program for our families.

Prayer Shawls – from Sandra Burgess: 5 prayer shawls were given out, 3 Pet Squares & 1 Baptism shawl.

We raised \$1,400.00 at the Fall Fair selling our knitted and crocheted yarn goods. \$1,000.00

was transferred to the STUC General Fund.

Anyone interested in knitting or crocheting are welcome to join our ministry. Contact Sandra Burgess.

Education, Speakers & Presentations – During 2025, the Pastoral Care Team have worked with Adrian Obusan to provide an ongoing series on “The Art of Farewell”.

Training for our “Friend to Friend” visitor program was provided in November. Several people signed up to be regular visitors to members of the congregation.

Alzheimer’s Walk – Several members of the team participated in this walk in October on the Thanksgiving weekend.

Naked Faith Supper – The Pastoral Care Team hosted the Naked Faith Supper in February.

Retirement Home Monthly Services – Rev. Tracy continues to provide monthly services at The Manor Village at Rocky Ridge and The Manor Village at Varsity. She has been aided by Loree Irving/Bud Berges, Betty Thompson and Elaine Taylor-Kerr. Richard Taylor-Kerr has been helping with the bulletin and keeps us fed between services. The services are conducted on the third Wednesday of the month and have been well attended.

Going Forward – We continue with all these programs and more! We are forever grateful for the myriad folks that join us in helping care for our congregation. Thank you again for your support and dedication to being part of our Pastoral Care Team. The St. Thomas congregation is the perfect model of caring and compassion. And to our amazing and energetic Pastoral Care Committee: Marj Aucoin, Diane Latter, Jan Mingo, Cathy Olson, Louise Scott, Betty Thompson, Heather Worton, Richard Taylor-Kerr (Chair) and Rev. Tracy Robertson.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Taylor-Kerr, Chair

PLANNING TEAM

The Planning team typically meets a minimum of three times per year, and its mandate is to consider the long-term strategic plan for St. Thomas.

The Planning Team continued tracking a calendar of intentional intergenerational events per month during 2025. We began work on the formation of a new ministry plan by gathering input from teams and committees in late fall. The primary focus will be on the ministry plan for 2026.

The Planning team members are Hope Cochran, Melissa Elves-Kerkhoven, Deyelle MacDonald, Rev. Marion Martin, Rev. Tracy Robertson, Elaine Taylor-Kerr, Wanda Veer, and Linda Miller

Respectfully submitted by Linda Miller, Chair

QUILTING FOR OTHERS

We are a group of quilters doing what we love - Quilting for Others (QFO). We create quilts to donate – whether to St. Thomas UC congregants or various organizations in Calgary. With people grieving the loss of a loved one, those in abusive situations, the influx of immigrants

and our wee folk at Alberta Children's Hospital, there is a never-ending need of quilts and there are many agencies who ensure our quilts are given to those who need one. Sometimes the person just needs a hug or to know that someone is thinking of them. That is what our quilts do!!

We are always grateful to St. Thomas for providing the space we need to make our quilts, and we happily give back to the church in a variety of ways to say thank you with donations of quilts to congregants, friends or family and/or a donation of funds to the church or a specific committee where needed.

In 2025, QFO donated approximately 50 quilts – up from 37 in 2024. In addition to giving quilts to St. Thomas members, we donated additional quilts to recipients such as Fear is not Love, Calgary Police Services, Alberta Children's Hospital, Blankets of Love and Basically Babies. Receiving a quilt lets people know they are thought of and loved when they are feeling most vulnerable.

There were a couple of 'sales' events hosted by St. Thomas to sell a few items to folk in the community and within St. Thomas. We are a self-funded community group and the funds from these sales allow us to purchase items needed to complete our quilts, such as batting, fabrics for backing, threads, cutting blades, etc.

Our current roster members are Janet Barker, Hope Cochran, Brenda Horen, Vivienne Howard, Nonie Johnston, Beth Morrison, Mary Ann Myers, Carol Ruggins, Nancy Sprules, Lyn Tonkin, and Janice Yeaman. Sadly, we lost one of our long-standing members this year – Marg Lennox. She is very much missed for her quick smile, positive attitude and willingness to help where and when she could.

As always, a huge thank you to all the QFO ladies for your hard work, time, and talent in making these quilts and, in many cases, in the donation of your own fabrics from your home stash.

We are always looking for more cotton fabrics – and just as important – people to join our group. You do not need to know how to quilt but if you can sew a straight line or hand stitch, you are needed and welcomed. We are happy to mentor inexperienced quilters in skills such as fabric and pattern selection and fabric cutting and assembling.

Thank you to all who came out to support the Festive Fairs and Quilting for Others in 2025.

Respectfully submitted by Hope Cochran

STEWARDSHIP

The St. Thomas Stewardship Team would like to **Thank You!!** Your generous contributions of time, talent and treasure have boldly made a difference in helping to make our community strong and vibrant. The 2025 Stewardship Campaign theme was "Season of Gratitude". It is with overflowing gratitude that we want to express appreciation for each and every one of you. In a world where chaos and uncertainty often reign, you are steadfast pillars of strength and hope.

The Stewardship Package was downloadable from our St. Thomas Giving website with online forms for Stewardship Pledges and PAR Requests thanks to Todd Robertson. We encouraged as many people as possible to do their pledge form online this year. Paper Stewardship packages were also available for pickup in the Narthex or mailed to people who requested one. All pledges were securely sent to the Office Administrator and the Finance Team to process. Thanks to Greg Hyatt for a Financial Update and the great work the Finance Team continues to do for St. Thomas.

At the end of the day, with this approach, we had 45 Stewardship Financial Pledges submitted. We had 9 paper copies and 36 submitted online. This was a decrease from the 71 forms we had returned last year. Of the pledges submitted we had about 30% families increase their financial pledges, about 60% of families maintained their current level of giving and the remaining 10% reduced their pledge. We are doing work before the next campaign to look for ways to encourage more people to return their pledge forms next year. Thanks so much everyone for your continued generosity and support of our St. Thomas family.

We have introduced the "Minute for STUC" segment in the service each week this year. We are aiming to give different committees and groups an opportunity to share their work and needs with the congregation. We hope you are enjoying hearing about all the wonderful things happening in our church community!

Our committee has some changes going into this new year. We added two new members this year: Linda Miller and Eva Stanley. Andrea Sonpal has stepped down from the committee. We are looking for new members and a Chair for the Stewardship Committee.

Respectfully submitted by Myrna Malanik, Linda Miller, Eva Stanley, Andrea Sonpal and Rev. Marion Martin

TRUSTEES

Trustees: David Gray, Chair, Roslyn Campbell, Dennis Gidley, Elaine Taylor-Kerr, Rev. Marion Martin (minister representative).

New Trustee during 2025: Deyelle MacDonald

Submitted by David Gray

WORSHIP

The Worship Team meets monthly in support of the Ministry Team and is represented on Executive Council. We review the upcoming church service schedule, look for areas of support, arrange coverage in the minister's absence, approve plans for special services, and ensure key roles – readers, greeters, candle lighters, Communion servers, and decorators - are filled for each service. We are especially blessed to have Cathy Rivard as Chairperson! In the background, she covers all details to ensure planning and preparation is complete.

In 2025, Rev. Tracy took a three-month sabbatical, returning for the August 3 service. There was excellent pre-planning for those services, with a variety of themes - from the Three Wise

Women to Star Wars, a Bowness Park picnic service and Stampede service. We saw so many teams and leaders pull together! A huge thanks to all those who stepped forward to participate! Each Sunday of her absence, we lit the Rev. Tracy candle and were blessed that Rev. Marion was there for us.

We also encouraged all to attend off-site services. The United Church 100th Anniversary service was held June 8 at Knox United Church. And while we welcomed Foothills United Church to worship with us for the month of August, we met for services at their church for most of July. August 31 was the Pride Parade in downtown Calgary.

We're looking forward to 2026. We have listened to feedback and assessed our past services. We will review the timing of our Communion services and participate with others in betterment such as the 1-3-5-year Planning, Safety, and Toward 2035. We will continue with scheduling welcomed participation in the Sunday services – excellent music from our choirs and musicians, videos, Children's Time, and Minute for STUC.

Our team is Rev. Tracy Robertson, Rev. Marion Martin, Todd Robertson (Communications), Cathy Rivard (Chair), Linda Bouchard, Heather Worton, Tobin Dressler, and Diane Paley. Sharon Ramraj-Thompson also participated.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Paley, Worship Team

YOUTH ADVISORY

In addition to Sunday School, St. Thomas has programming for children and youth from grades 4 – 12. We retain youth leaders who run an excellent program for the youth in grades 7 – 12 and any friends they choose to bring. They are responsible for planning and running a Sunday morning program and a weekly social event. The Youth Advisory Team acts as a sounding board for the staff and volunteers, assists in planning, finding volunteers, and communicating with the Congregation. They also gather input from youth and the congregation on the programs, perform the annual performance reviews and recruit new hires as needed. A formal partnership is in place with Symons Valley United Church to provide joint youth group programming. In 2025, the Youth Advisory Committee consisted of 4 youth leaders plus 7 volunteers. Tracy Robertson, St. Thomas Minister, sits on this committee. Ilinca Poon, Symons Valley Children and Family Ministry Coordinator, is also a committee member.

The focus of the Sunday morning program is on spiritual development and exploring social justice issues. Discussion themes included new year's resolutions, music, lent, the new creed, gratitude, Remembrance Day, violence against women, self-care, and advent.

The youth wrote and delivered a service with the theme of *Star Wars*. The youth talked about the themes in the *Star Wars* movies that are tied to messages they hear at church. This service was delivered at St. Thomas on May 25 and at Symons Valley on June 1. It was well received by both congregations.

The youth have attended Naked Faith. It consisted of a simple dinner, a youth-oriented worship service and a social time that included lots of active games. The dinner and worship service are open to all ages. The games are for the youth only. St. Thomas hosted five of the events with the remainder being held at Southwood United. This program is run by Fish Creek Shared Ministry and is for all youth across Calgary.

The youth participated in several mission and outreach projects in 2025. During Ramadan, they shared a 'breaking-the-fast' meal with the Muslim youth from the group that meets at Symons Valley. In September, they participated in the Terry Fox walk and raised \$550 through support from both congregations. In December, they wrapped presents for Adopt-a-Family. During November and December, they collected warm clothing for Calgary's unhoused in conjunction with the Fish Creek United youth group.

The youth were involved in the life of both congregations. They or their leaders lead the Call to Worship and Opening Prayer at St. Thomas most weeks. They attended various events at each church and helped out at some. They provided some baking for Sunday morning coffee in October. They helped out with Sunday School at St. Thomas one Sunday morning in the fall.

Weekly social events are mostly a time for fellowship and volunteer service. Social activities have included Naked Faith, attending Messy Church, games nights, movie nights, baking nights, paint nights, skating, minute to win it, video games, a Dungeons and Dragons night, swimming, mini golf, and disk golf. The youth also attended the annual Fish Creek Shared Ministry camp in June, and one youth attended the Chinook Winds Region Youth Trek in Vernon in October. The highlight again this fall was the Christmas sleepover that started with Naked Faith on December 19 and ended with the Church service on December 21. The youth participated in the service by greeting, lighting candles, taking offering, and serving cake for birthday Sunday. The youth loved this weekend and have asked to do it again next year.

A Junior Youth group, for children in grade 4 – 6, is run by volunteers. Ev Robertson ran monthly zoom calls until the end of June. The children talked about what they were doing and played some online games. Sam Abel ran monthly in-person events. The children checked in, played some active games, did crafts, played board games, and had a snack. Tag and hide and seek are favourites. Most of the in-person events have been joint with Symons Valley United and have alternated location between the two churches.

The youth leaders this year have been Jonah Edwards, Serena Moar, Isaac Reimer, and Annalee McKellar (Sept – Dec). Volunteer Junior Youth leaders have been Sam Abel and Ev Robertson (Jan – June). The committee consisted of Andrea Hardie (SVUC rep Sept – Dec), Elissa Henderson (SVUC rep Jan – June), John Latter, Jay Livesay, Andrew Major, Jan Mingo, Ilinca Poon (SVUC staff support), Tracy Robertson (ministry support), Elaine Taylor-Kerr (Chair), and David Ward (SVUC rep). Thank you to all for their dedication to the youth program at St. Thomas and Symons Valley United Churches.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Taylor-Kerr

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Star Word “Possibilities”!

At a recent cluster meeting they asked us to think of a star word in preparation for the planning meeting amongst Calgary churches. Mine was easy! St. Thomas participated a few years back by having us pull one from the proverbial hat. Well, I admit, I cheated. Instead of a random pull, I looked for one that would suit me well. And I continue to look at it daily on my office wall.

Possibilities.

Possibilities. What if our congregation became aware of the initiatives of the United Church of Canada and The Chinook Winds Region? In that still small voice, what if someone sets a spark into the spirit of those who can help? We worked to keep the congregation informed, while representing St. Thomas at many of the United Church activities.

Heard About... We published descriptions and website links in St. Thomas bulletin and announcements. We provided an introductory video of the new Moderator and encouraged the congregation to sign up for online news – E-ssentials and Regional Newsletter.

Representing St. Thomas. We volunteered for General Council 45, held here at the Calgary Convention Centre. We attended online Cross-Country check-ins and Town Halls, in-person workshops at the Regional Council General Meeting in Lacombe and at Everything We Need – A Learning Party at McDougall Church. Moon Ja continued with her representation to Ethno-Cultural Ministry Network, General Council, as chair of the United Church of Canada Korean Network and greeted 16 Korean Commissioners from all regions and special guests. The General Secretary of Presbyterian Church of Republic of Korea received an invitation from The United Church of Canada General Council. We continue to attend Executive Council at GC45, in Calgary, August 2025. Also, Moon Ja is attending the “Western Intercultural Ministry Network”.

Snapshot Toward the Future. In assembling The United Church Community of Faith Assessment Tool, we had our Executive Council provide facts and opinions on the current state of St. Thomas. We also assembled a summary of the Yearbook and Directory. We will work with the church on the Toward 2035 initiative, knowing the importance of Open Hands, Open Hearts, and Open Minds. For example, new names and new terminology – we are now using the term Community of Faith, and I’ve found that new congregations are named after communities, rather than Saints. January 1, 2025, we saw Northminster and St. Davids join to become Summit View United Church, and January 1, 2022, St. Andrews and Deer Park became Fish Creek United Church.

And a Huge Thank-You. This year, Hugh Johnson and Linda Miller resigned from the position of Regional Representative to welcome Moon Ja Park to the role. Her breadth of knowledge of the wider workings of the church has already served us well! A huge gratitude to Hugh and Linda for everything they brought to St. Thomas!

Submitted by Diane Paley, Regional Representative, Chinook Winds Region

**ST. THOMAS UNITED CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025**



St. Thomas United Church
Open Hands - Open Hearts - Open Minds

St. Thomas United Church
Balance Sheet as at December 31, 2025

	2025	2024
Assets		
Cash and Investments		
Cash	\$ 79,448	\$ 86,428
Investments (Note 2)	264,073	325,681
Total Cash and Investments	343,521	412,109
Accounts receivable	7,882	5,879
Prepaid grocery gift cards (Note 3)	24,501	12,853
Fixed Assets (Note 4)		
Land	243,839	243,839
Landscaping & Paving - Net	74,512	80,991
Building & Fixtures – Net	851,411	775,335
Total Fixed Assets	1,169,762	1,100,165
Total Assets	\$ 1,545,666	\$ 1,531,006
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 10,139	\$ 8,552
Deferred Revenue (Note 5)	14,598	20,221
Total Liabilities	24,737	28,773
Equity		
Temporarily Restricted Funds (Notes 6 and 7)	107,037	167,023
Unrestricted Net Assets (Note 8)	1,413,892	1,335,210
Total Equity	1,520,929	1,502,233
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 1,545,666	\$ 1,531,006

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

St. Thomas United Church
Statement of Operating Fund Revenue and Expenses for the Year Ended December 31, 2025
Excluding Non-Cash Expenses (Depreciation)

	2025	2024
Revenue		
Local offerings	\$ 312,389	\$ 314,699
Facility cost recovery	112,103	105,571
Fund raising	18,620	16,603
Investment income	10,462	10,654
Miscellaneous income	4,463	5,358
Total Revenue	\$ 458,037	\$ 452,885
 Expenses		
Salaries & benefits	\$ 357,486	\$ 345,417
Less: Recovery from other congregations for ministry sharing	57,881	55,858
Office administration	8,758	7,610
Insurance	11,464	8,422
United Church of Canada assessments	21,504	20,521
Building & property		
Utilities	16,307	15,529
Maintenance	66,152	67,537
Municipal property tax	1,899	2,023
Committee expenses		
Communications	3,243	4,489
Finance	720	719
Pastoral Care	298	301
Faith Formation	1,672	874
Music	3,640	4,446
Outreach	6,023	7,968
Paths to Reconciliation	284	427
Affirming	3,025	4,951
Hospitality	1,105	1,126
Stewardship	50	274
Youth	1,460	1,556
Worship	718	760
Community Engagement	-	102
Executive Council	1,026	127
Total Expenses excluding Depreciation¹	\$ 448,953	\$ 439,321
 Surplus (Deficit) excluding Depreciation¹	\$ 9,084	\$ 13,564

1. Depreciation expense for 2025 is \$49,712 (\$36,590 for 2024)

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

St. Thomas United Church
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

1. Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis.

St. Thomas United Church's land, building, furniture and fixtures are recorded at cost, net of financial assistance from the Government of Canada and the United Church of Canada.

Fixed assets are recorded net of depreciation. Prior to 2006, depreciation was computed on the building plus furniture and fixtures at a rate of approximately 2% on the declining balance. Commencing in 2006, depreciation is computed as follows:

	<u>Annual Rate Applied to Declining Balance</u>
Building	2%
Paving	8%
Organ and grand piano	10%
Furniture and fixtures	20%

2. Investments

The investments are reflected at fair market value and comprise the following:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Value as at Dec. 31, 2025</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
CIBC 36 month term non-redeemable GIC	30,870	February 27, 2026	3.75%
CIBC 36 month term non-redeemable GIC	34,502	December 21, 2026	4.75%
CIBC 12 month term non-redeemable GIC	30,020	December 24, 2026	2.70%
CIBC 36 month term non-redeemable GIC	31,075	May 31, 2027	4.25%
CIBC 36 month term non-redeemable GIC	31,304	July 5, 2027	4.10%
CIBC 36 month term non-redeemable GIC	85,618	October 28, 2027	3.25%
CIBC 36 month term non-redeemable GIC	20,684	December 20, 2027	3.30%
	<u>\$ 264,073</u>		

3. Prepaid Grocery Gift Cards

Prepaid grocery gift cards are recorded at cost, while revenue is recorded when the cards are sold. St. Thomas makes large bulk purchases of these cards in order to maximize the profit margin upon the sale of the cards. Cards are bought at a discount and then sold at face value.

4. **Fixed Assets**

	2025			2024
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Depreciation</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Net</u>
Land - net of grant	\$ 243,839	\$ -	\$ 243,839	\$ 243,839
Paving	\$ 164,451	\$ 89,939	\$ 74,512	\$ 80,991
Building and fixtures:				
Building	\$ 1,335,252	\$ 607,132	\$ 728,120	\$ 703,702
Organ	130,385	114,533	15,852	17,613
Grand piano	14,128	12,339	1,789	1,988
Furniture and fixtures	283,124	177,474	105,650	52,032
Total Building & Fixtures	\$ 1,762,889	\$ 911,478	\$ 851,411	\$ 775,335

5. **Deferred Revenue**

Deferred Revenue consists of contributions designated for the ensuing year received in the current year plus any facility cost recovery revenue for the ensuing year received in the current year.

6. **Building & Mortgage Fund**

	2025	2024
Balance – January 1	\$ 161,101	\$ 150,150
Building & Mortgage Fund receipts in year	35,880	42,374
Capital additions funded from Building & Mortgage Fund ¹	(117,515)	(21,798)
Major building repairs funded from Building & Mortgage Fund ²	(3,832)	(9,625)
Balance – December 31 ³	\$ 75,634	\$ 161,101

1. Capital additions funded from the Building & Mortgage Fund in 2025 include sanctuary carpet replacement, sanctuary wall painting and ceiling texturing, new sanctuary chairs, rebuilding and re-stuccoing a water-damaged sanctuary wall including building a retaining wall, two hymn book carts, new blinds for the Sunday School, nursery and lounge as well as a new narthex monitor.
2. Major building repairs funded from the Building & Mortgage Fund in 2025 include re-stuccoing the shed and roofing repairs.
3. \$11,686 of December 31, 2025 balance is earmarked for kitchen upgrades (December 31, 2024 - \$10,686).

7. **Temporarily Restricted Funds**

	<u>Benevolent Fund</u>	<u>Memorial Fund</u>	<u>Building & Mortgage Fund</u>	<u>Total Restricted Funds</u>
Balance – January 1, 2025	\$ 629	\$ 5,293	\$ 161,101	\$ 167,023
Receipts in year	-	27,275	35,880	63,155
Use of funds ¹	-	(1,794)	(121,347)	(123,141)
Balance – December 31, 2025	\$ 629	\$ 30,774	\$ 75,634	\$ 107,037

1. Capital addition funded from the Memorial Fund in 2025 was a new sanctuary sound board.

8. **Unrestricted Net Assets**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Balance – January 1	\$ 1,335,211	\$ 1,336,439
Release of restricted funds to unrestricted net assets:		
Capital additions funded from Building & Mortgage Fund	117,515	21,798
Capital additions funded from the Memorial Fund	1,794	-
Surplus (deficit) excluding depreciation	9,084	13,564
Depreciation	(49,712)	(36,590)
Balance – December 31	<u>\$ 1,413,892</u>	<u>\$ 1,335,211</u>

9. **Contributions not Reflected in these Statements**

(a) **Mission and Service Fund**

In 2025, St. Thomas United Church received \$40,835 (2024 - \$45,350) in Mission and Service offerings on behalf of the United Church of Canada. These offerings have been forwarded to the United Church of Canada and as such are not reflected in the Statement of Revenue and Expenses.

(b) **Other**

St. Thomas United Church received the following donations which have been forwarded to the respective charities to which the donations were designated. As such, they are not reflected in the Statement of Revenue and Expenses.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Skipping Stone Foundation	\$ 685	\$ -
Knox United Church for its United Church of Canada		
100 th Anniversary Legacy Fund	1,825	-
Calgary Veterans Services Society	-	928
Children's Cottage Society	-	150
	<u>\$ 2,510</u>	<u>\$ 1,078</u>

10. **Tax Status**

St. Thomas United Church qualifies as a "registered charity" under Section 149(1)(f) of the Income Tax Act, Canada and accordingly has no income taxes payable.